

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 17, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Bethune welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Opening: Mayor Bethune offered the invocation and invited everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members: Mayor Don Bethune presided. **Council Members:** Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Marcia Daniel, Bessie Kicklighter, Debbie Ruiz and Kim Tice.

Staff: Ron Feldner, City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Cliff Ducey, Recreation Director; Ron Alexander, Planning Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Corbin Medeiros, Interim Fire Chief; Jackie Jackson, Special Projects Coordinator, Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director and Sara Berry, Public Works Administrative Assistant. Absent: Benny Googe, Public Works Director.

Garden City Fire Department Promotions: Mayor Bethune and Interim Fire Chief Mederios made the promotions as follows:

- Sgt. Anthony Brannen to the rank of Lieutenant
- Sgt. Michele Johnson to the rank of Lieutenant
- Firefighter Carl Gregory to the rank of Sergeant
- Firefighter Mark Sullivan to the rank of Sergeant

Mayor Bethune said we are proud of the firefighters for the job they do.

Life Safety Award: Mayor Bethune and Interim Fire Chief Mederios presented a Life Safety Award to Sgt. Carl Gregory, Firefighter Ronald Hendry and Firefighter Nicholas Martin in recognition of their life saving actions on a cardiac event call on November 17, 2016.

Mr. Jetter said I am very thankful for their assistance. If it had not been for these guys I would not be here today.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Bethune opened the floor to receive public comment from the audience.

Ms. Teresa Ames, 46 Varnedoe Avenue, said the noise from the train's horn has gotten louder. She said also I'm concerned about the motorists speeding on Varnedue due to the trains being longer. She said I would like to know if there has been any progress on seeing what can be done about the trains.

Mayor Bethune said we have been in meetings with the Georgia Ports Authority regarding the train issues.

City Manager said we have a meeting that we are scheduling with the Ports on their plan on what they are doing about the trains.

Mayor Bethune said once we have the meeting with GPA on their plan, we plan to hold a public meeting for GPA to present their plan.

There being no further comments or questions from the audience, Mayor Bethune closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the City Council Minutes dated 12/5/16 and the Workshop Synopsis dated 1/9/17.

Staff Reports:

HR Director presented the Human Resources Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

IT Director presented the Information Technology Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

In the absence of the Public Works Director, Sara Berry, Administrative Assistant presented the Public Works Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

Recreation Director presented the Parks and Recreation Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

Planning Director presented the Planning Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

Water Operations Director presented the Water Operations Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

Interim Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's Year-end Report for 2016.

City Manager Updates: City Manager said city staff is going through a series of meetings with FEMA on the costs from Hurricane Matthew.

Items for Consideration:

Planning Commission / Board of Zoning Appeals Nominees: Councilmember Kicklighter nominated Ms. Misty Selph to replace Danny Nelson on the Planning Commission / Board of Zoning Appeals.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Misty Selph to replace Danny Nelson on the Planning Commission / Board of Zoning Appeals.

City Official Appointments: Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to confirm the following appointments:

- James P. Gerard as City Attorney
- Tom Edenfield as Municipal Records Court Judge
- Billy Earl Tomlinson as Municipal Records Court Judge Pro-tem
- James P. Gerard as Municipal Records Court Judge Pro-tem
- Doug Andrews as Municipal Records Court Judge Pro-tem

Ordinance – Combined Public Utility System: Clerk of Council read the first reading of the heading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 82, Article 1, of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, so as to add Fire Protection Services to the City's combined public utility system created pursuant to Code Section 82-1; to except Fire Protection Services from those services in the combined public utility system which may be terminated by reason of non-payment of City utility bills pursuant to Code Section 82-6; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Tice, City Council voted unanimously to approve the ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council and hold the seconded reading of the ordinance.

Ordinance – Combined Public Utility System: Clerk of Council read the second reading of the heading of an ordinance to amend Chapter 82, Article 1, of the Code of Ordinances of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, so as to add Fire Protection Services to the City's combined public utility system created pursuant to Code Section 82-1; to except Fire Protection Services from those services in the combined public utility system which may be terminated by reason of non-payment of City utility bills pursuant to Code Section 82-6; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Ruiz, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on the second reading.

Resolution – Setting of Municipal Election Qualifying Fee for 2017: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, that notice be given to the citizens of Garden City, Georgia, that the qualifying fee for the Office of City Council Member shall be \$108.00 for the upcoming general election in November 2017.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Kicklighter, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution – Appointment of Election Duties & Notification of Qualifying Period for 2017: Clerk of Council read the heading of a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, that the Board of Elections of Chatham County, Georgia, perform all duties as municipal superintendent of elections in Garden City, Georgia, with the exception of the qualification of candidates which shall be the responsibility of the Clerk of Council, and that the Chatham County Board of Registration further perform the duties of absentee ballot clerk; Qualifying for the offices of City Council Member will take place at Garden City City Hall commencing August 21, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. and ending August 24, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Councilmember Tice, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

GDOT Memorandum of Understanding – Brampton Road Connector Utilities Relocation: Consideration by Mayor and City Council of authorizing the City Manager to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the City of Garden City, Georgia, to commence the design work associated with the relocation of the City's water and sewer utilities, and coordinate with the GDOT.

City Manager said GDOT and GPA have been working the last several years on road projects relating to the Ports' traffic. He said the City has to work with GDOT on relocating the City's water/sewer utilities that are within the Brampton Road Connector project limits.

Upon motion by Councilmember Kicklighter, seconded by Councilmember Tice, City Council voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager to execute a memorandum of understanding between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the City of Garden City, Georgia, to commence the design work associated with the relocation of the City's water and sewer utilities, and coordinate with the GDOT.

Adjournment: There being no further items, Mayor Bethune called for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Daniel, City Council adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Transcribed / Submitted by: Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council

Accepted / Approved by City Council: 2/6/17